

Money Is Shaky.  
Pound Sterling Limp.  
Russian Gold.  
Why Extra Suicides?

BY ARTHUR BRISBANE.  
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David F. Houston is to move from the Agricultural Department to the Treasury of the United States. If he works as hard and intelligently on the nation's finances as he worked for the farmers and the food supply of the country, he will be a first-class treasurer.

Money values of the world are crumbling. People are learning that "money" of itself is nothing. You can buy German marks for about a cent apiece, less than a twentieth of their nominal value. Austrian money is worse, and that of many countries about as bad. The French franc has lost sixty per cent of its value; Italian lire have lost sixty-six per cent.

Even the British pound sterling, financial rock of Gibraltar, is a first mortgage on Gibraltar, and a poor cripple, limping along at \$3.55 a pound. That loss of thirty-seven per cent in value doesn't represent the real loss. For gold in London costs 116 1/2 shillings an ounce, whereas it used to cost only 85 shillings. For the first time in a hundred years gold is at a premium in England. The pound is actually worth about \$3.00. "He hath put down the mighty."

Just what this means the world doesn't know yet, but it will find out.

Paper money is only a nation's promise to pay. When people think a nation isn't able to pay, the value of its money drops like the "I. O. U." of an insolvent individual.

No wonder the franc loses sixty per cent of its value. France must pay, every year, twenty billion francs, four thousand million dollars, to make up for war loss. France has one-third the population of this country, less than one-third the wealth. If the United States had to pay twelve billion francs every month indefinitely, what effect would it have on our credit?

The nations of the world went on a terrific debauch for five years. Now they must pay for it.

Russia, with all her "wild dreamers," seems to be financially in a stronger position than many other nations. Lening has taken all the gold in Russia, accumulating it in government hands. The endless billions of rubles printed by Bolsheviks are worth nothing. But that same Bolshevik has under lock and key a gigantic store of gold with which it can do real business.

Reading that news from Russia you read also that the United States has shipped eighty millions of dollars to Prague, and wonder if this country can't wake up, realize that Christmas has passed and stop playing Santa Claus.

Italian life may be down, but the Italian people and Italian courage are up. They are going ahead over there industrially with extraordinary courage for a nation that only a few months ago was chopping down its forests for lack of coal.

Caproni has built a flying machine to carry one hundred passengers for sight-seeing on the Italian lakes. The flying machine age is really here.

As though there had not been enough violent deaths in five years of war, suicide has increased extraordinarily in all countries since the war ended.

More than five thousand killed themselves in this country last year. While war was raging, the number of suicides diminished everywhere. That was because the war was interesting, people wanted to see what would happen.

A scientific gentleman thinks we have all lived before, but is puzzled that we do not remember other lives.

The week-old baby was alive yesterday and the day before, but doesn't know that, doesn't remember. He doesn't even know that his toe is part of himself, bites it and howls. When he gets older he remembers what happened yesterday. To human beings in their intellectual infancy, death is like a night's sleep to a baby. They forget everything that happened before it.

We shall later carry consciousness through from one life to another, perhaps, and newspapers will carry the headline: "Carnuso Born Again."

PLAGUE IS SPREADING  
OVER EASTERN EUROPE

Virulent Influenza and Spotted Fever Also Preval, Dispatches State.

VIENNA, Jan. 28.—The spread of epidemics in eastern Europe is gravely alarming Austria. Influenza in virulent form is increasing in Vienna and Budapest.

Reports from eastern Silesia and Slovakia say that the plague is developing rapidly. At Teschen people are falling in the streets. Three members of the Diet were among the victims. Many government offices are closed.

Spotted fever is spreading in Ukraine, Bessarabia, and Poland.

WEATHER:  
Fair and colder tonight and tomorrow, fair. Low-set temperature tonight about 25 degrees. Temperature at 5 p. m., 26 degrees.

Kutz Blames Department Chiefs for Congested Traffic and Overcrowded Street Cars

WILSON FOR TREATY CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

RUSH TO WORK  
CAUSES JAMS

"Staggered" Hours for Federal Workers Urged to Relieve Congestion.

MT. PLEASANT SERVICE POOR

Commissioner Suggests Building New Line to Parallel Fourteenth Street.

Washington's two traction systems, the Capital Traction Company and the Washington Railway and Electric Company, were given clean bills of health today by Commissioner Kutz, who absolved them from blame for crowded street car conditions, when he testified before the House District Committee in support of the bill providing for a merger of the two companies.

If the responsibility for the rush-hour crushes and delays in the operation of the two systems rests upon anyone, Commissioner Kutz claimed, the major portion of it must be borne by the Government and the public.

Blames Government. Failure of the Government departments to agree on "staggered" hours, which would relieve the great congestion in the mornings and afternoons, Colonel Kutz declared, is in large measure responsible for the inability of the street car companies to handle the unnecessarily large crowds at these hours.

He declared that the Public Utilities Commission already has written a letter to President Wilson asking that the Government do something to arrange opening hours of the departments to relieve traffic congestion.

This letter has been referred to the chief clerks of the various Government departments, he told the committee, but no action has resulted from it.

Nearly all the Government clerks proceed on the theory that they must get to their offices between five minutes to 9 and 9 o'clock, Colonel Kutz explained. This forces an unusual tax on the capacity of the companies, which would not prevail if the designated time of arrival in the offices were "staggered."

Need New Line to Northwest. Commissioner Kutz told the committee, which inquired particularly into traffic conditions, that the Public Utilities Commission believes the time has come when the Fourteenth street line of the Capital Traction Company must be paralleled by another line. The great increase in traffic during the last year or so, he said, makes another line imperative.

He thought that this line should be either on Seventeenth street or some other nearby street running north and south.

Extension of the Fourteenth street line so that the Capital Traction cars would run straight down across F street to Pennsylvania ave. without going around the Treasury, was another proposal which, Colonel Kutz believed would be necessary. He did not seem to think, however, it would be advisable to extend the line at present.

Referring to the failure of the Government to act on the request for a standard hour, Commissioner Kutz expressed regret that the Government had not acted during the last four years of comfort to the traveling public.

When Commissioner Kutz had completed touching on conditions on the traffic conditions in Washington, (Continued on Page 19, Column 7.)

GERMAN WARSHIPS MUST  
AWAY IN HARBOR AT KIEL

International Naval Commission Inspects Dockyards—Seamen's Spirit Unbroken.

Divorce Ends Year's Romance  
Of Canadian Hero-Aviator and  
June Elvidge, Star of Screen

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Capt. Francis C. Badgley, Canadian war hero, who married June Elvidge, the actress, in November, 1918, when he was attached to the British mission here, has been granted an absolute divorce. Justice Pendleton signed an interlocutory decree to be made final in three months.

All the papers were sealed. The case was heard by John L. O'Brien, as referee, and his report in favor of the husband was confirmed by the court.

Mrs. Badgley's last stage work was in the movie, "The Whip" and other successes. She was cast for many vampire parts.

Captain Badgley went overseas as an aviator in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. When he had recovered from a slight wound, he was assigned to the British mission in this country. In New York he fell in love with June Elvidge on the screen, so he often said. He sought a meeting and his courtship was rapid.

Their married life lasted less than a year. Samuel Wasserman, attorney for the captain, stated that his client was still in the city.

Very little of the details responsible for the Canadian officer's suit was revealed when papers were filed with the supreme court. He referred to a certain mysterious "Jack" without divulging the surname of the latter as a party whose interest in the actress was greater than a platonic one.

Miss Elvidge, when served with notice of the action in September, aroused by the innuendo suggested in the complaint, promptly filed a vigorous answer, denying the allegations.

Badgley, during the war, sustained shell shock, gas and wounds. For valor at the battle of Courcellette he was decorated with the British Military Cross. He is a resident of Ottawa, Ontario, where he and Miss Elvidge passed their honeymoon.

Way Cleared for Newberry Trial. Snowplows Banish Huge Drifts That Halted Proceedings Temporarily.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 28.—Rotary snowplows, operating in the huge drifts which choke northern Michigan, cleared the way today for the actual opening of the trial of United States Truman H. Newberry and 134 of his co-defendants in the vote fraud trial. Belated trains brought the last of the defendants, whose absence at the session yesterday caused temporary delay in the proceedings.

There was also an extra contingent of prospective jurors for duty, and the business of selecting the thirteen men will start in earnest today. Although Judge Sessions has already cut down the list sharply by means of his questionnaires, it is expected some days will pass before the full panel can be obtained.

BIDS FOR 30 GERMAN SHIPS TO BE OPENED. Leviathan and George Washington Among Vessels to Be Disposed of By Shipping Board.

Sealed bids for the purchase of thirty German steamships were to be opened today by shipping board officials.

The vessels which amount to 365,000 gross tons include the Leviathan, formerly the Vaterland, of 54,282 tons and the George Washington of 25,369 tons.

Other liners which are on sale are the Agamemnon, 19,350 tons, Mount Vernon, 18,372 tons; America, 22,622 tons, and the President Grant, 18,072 tons.

The Shipping Board is carrying out its announced policy of disposing of all its ships to private interests. Sales of other vessels will begin later.

The board is not committed to accept any bids. It reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Trade routes, which the Shipping Board has established, must be maintained by the purchasers of ships.

PREMIER HUGHES SEES NEXT WAR IN PACIFIC. Australian Statesman Believe Adjacent Nations Are Envious of Antipodes.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The prediction that "the next war would probably break out in the Pacific" was attributed to Premier Hughes, of Australia, in a Central News dispatch from Melbourne today. The premier was quoted as saying in a speech: "We are hedged about with nations who just after Australia. We must be ready with sufficient force to say: 'Thus far and no farther.'"

PAY DEMANDS REFUSED, OPERA SINGERS STRIKE. NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 28.—French grand opera, closed last night when players walked out because they were refused a salary guarantee for the remainder of the season, will not be reopened again during the present season, it was stated.

Members of the troupe presented their demands shortly before the curtain was scheduled to rise on the production of "Louise." Receiving a refusal, they walked out in a body.

LAW PLANS TO  
WIPE OUT FLU

Appropriation of \$500,000 Sought for Extended Research and Study.

COLLEGES TO CO-OPERATE

Squads of Investigators Will Observe Spread of Disease At Close Range.

Plans for extended research and study of the influenza situation are prepared and waiting upon the final passage of the appropriation of \$500,000 now being considered by Congress, Assistant Surgeon General J. W. Schereschewsky said today.

Dr. Schereschewsky made this statement as reports to the Health Service from all sections of the country indicated that the disease still is spreading.

Squads of Probers. "We shall immediately send squads of investigators into epidemic centers," he said, "to study the disease at close range. Medical schools and research laboratories will be invited to assist."

The investigation will be divided into two parts: first, a study of the nature of the disease including how it is transmitted, and to what degree, immunity is conferred by previous attacks; and, second, a laboratory study of means of prevention and how to avoid complications.

The bill appropriating \$500,000 now is before the House, having been passed by the Senate.

WOULD HIRE PLAYERS TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN. NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Substantial decrease in the number of new influenza cases reported yesterday, gave the health authorities here little cause for hope, and they predicted that probably 3,000 new cases would be reported tomorrow. Delay of physicians in reporting cases was given as the reason for the decrease.

Fifty-one prisoners confined at the Tombs prison were removed to the hospital where they with the war den and six of the keepers are believed to be suffering from influenza.

"If every school teacher in the city were taken ill, I would hire enterprisers to keep the public schools open," Dr. Royal Copeland, health commissioner, said. "There are a million children in the public schools now, and every minute they are there their parents know where they are, and that they are under supervision."

READ THIS OVER, GIRLS, SMALL WAISTS STYLISH. Paris Says Wasp Kind With Tight Lacing Will Not Return, However.

PARIS, Jan. 28.—Reports are heard in circles of fashion that small waists are to "come in" again next season. In professional quarters in accordance with a decision by great dressmaking establishments here not to make premature revelations, but it is said gowns designed after the new mode have been seen and admired.

Authorities in the dressmaking trade, however, deny tight lacing is to return, one of them saying: "The wasp waist is as obsolete as the stage coach or the Sedan chair."

GIRL CANCELS WEDDING WHEN FIANCE IS HELD. Marie Potvin Objects to Sealing Domestic Fate in Stolen Finery.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 28.—Marie Potvin, nineteen, was to have been married to Harold Fitzgerald. But the bells did not ring. She is the bride of sorrow instead.

Fitzgerald, twenty-three, whom she met in Flint, was arraigned on a charge of breaking and entering a bureau drawer in the hotel where he was staying. Owing to the hotel congestion Fitzgerald was given a room in which another guest had left some belongings while he was out of town temporarily.

Miss Potvin, the police say, would not approach the altar in a stolen trousseau, or seal her fate with a stolen diamond. She told the police Fitzgerald had promised to go such lengths to make her happy as to risk liberty and a good name by adorning her in pilfered finery.

MEXICO LURES  
CROWN PRINCE

Frederick Wilhelm Said to Plan German Colony in Southern Republic.

MAY SAIL IN THE SPRING

Brother to Follow Him Soon, Former Attache to Carranza Government Says.

HERMOSILLO, Mex., Jan. 28.—Frederick Wilhelm Hohenzollern, the ex-crown prince of Germany, is soon coming to Mexico, according to a statement made here today by Rudolph Mischner, a former attache of the German legation in Mexico City.

Mischner declared that the ex-crown prince will leave Europe early in the spring and will arrive in Mexico quietly and unannounced. He will make his headquarters in Mexico City.

Brother to Follow Him. Frederick Wilhelm's prime purpose in coming to Mexico, according to Mischner is to establish a German colony in the state of Queretaro, where German agents recently have taken options of large tracts of fertile lands in the vicinity of San Cristobal. Queretaro is the native state of President Carranza.

Frederick Wilhelm will be followed shortly by Prince Oscar, another son of the Kaiser, who plans to establish himself in the state of Oaxaca, Salavador, in Central America, declared Mischner. German agents have recently purchased large plantation properties in that district.

Herr Mischner intimated that the ex-crown prince would be the guest of President Carranza for a short time after his arrival in the capital.

WAR BOARD TO PROBE POWHATAN DISASTER. Master and Crew of Transport Gaffe "Excellent Service," Reports State.

A complete investigation will be conducted into the disabling of the army transport Powhatan, the War Department announced today. A board of investigation has already been appointed.

The department also announced that, so far as has been learned, the disabling of the vessel was due to an accident, and that the master and crew gave "excellent service."

Congressman Britten of Illinois, has introduced a resolution in the House inquiring if Bolshevism among the crew was the cause of the ship being disabled.

DISABLED U. S. POWHATAN TOWED INTO HALIFAX. Transport Ends Ten-Day Battle With Stormy Seas—Crew All Safe.

HALIFAX, Jan. 28.—The disabled United States army transport Powhatan was towed into Halifax harbor at 7:30 last night. Captain Randall, her commander, reported that with the exception of three men slightly ill all was well on board.

The safe arrival of the Powhatan with her crew of 150 men ends a ten-day battle with incessant storms under extreme conditions of hardship, which opened on January 18, when the distressed vessel, then about 600 miles from land, sent out wireless appeals for aid. She then had on board 271 passengers, including women and children, who suffered for five days before weather conditions permitted transfer at night to the transport Northern Pacific. The passengers arrived safely in New York last Saturday.

MAY JAIL LANDLORDS WHO RENT TO "REDS". CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—Owners of buildings in which alleged reds meet may be prosecuted by Cook county officials, it was announced today by State attorneys in charge of the red investigation here.

A law passed by the last session of the Illinois legislature provides for prosecution of any one who rents a room or building and permits it to be used as an assembling place "where crime and violence are advocated as a means of accomplishing the reformation or overthrow of the existing form of government."

IRISH AT HOME GIVE  
\$7,500,000 TO  
WAR CHEST

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The Dublin correspondent of the Daily News wires that he is in a position to state that the amount of the Daile Eireann National Loan raised in Ireland has now reached close to 1,500,000 pounds sterling (about \$7,500,000 normally). It is understood that nearly three times that sum has been raised in the United States. This fund constitutes the exchequer of the revolutionary republican government. So far as Ireland is concerned, the loan has had to be raised secretly, but it has not suffered on that account.

PRESIDENT PLEADS  
FOR EUROPEAN LOAN

Writes to Secretary Glass to Make Another Urgent Appeal to Congress.

President Wilson today requested Secretary of the Treasury Glass to make another appeal to Congress for an appropriation of \$150,000,000 to be used in relieving starving populations in Poland, Austria and Armenia.

President Wilson, in a letter to Secretary Glass, expressed regret that Congress had not already authorized this loan.

The appropriation is pending before Congress. It has been urged by Herbert Hoover, General Bliss and others who declare starvation will kill thousands if this relief is not authorized.

Text of Letter. The President's letter following: "With considerable regret I have noticed from the press that Congress is delaying the granting of authority for the extension of prompt and generous relief to the stricken portions of Europe, the urgency and importance of which, especially in respect to Poland, Austria and Armenia you have already explained to the Ways and Means Committee."

"It is unthinkable to me that we should withhold from these people who are in such mental and physical distress the assistance which can be rendered by making available on credit a small portion of our exportable surplus of food which would alleviate the situation. While I am sure that you must have explained fully to the Ways and Means Committee the appalling situation in these parts of Europe where, men, women, and children are now dying of starvation and the urgent necessity for prompt assistance, I beg of you to make another appeal to Congress."

Has Moral Responsibility. "I am informed through the published report of hearings before the Ways and Means Committee that Congress has now been furnished with incontrovertible facts showing the necessity for immediate affirmative action."

"This prosperous republic ought not to bear any part of the responsibility for the moral and material chaos that must result from an unwillingness on our part to aid those less fortunate than ourselves."

"We can not, merely to husband a small portion of our supplies, permit the happening of this great catastrophe."

WOODROW WILSON.

PRINCE OF WALES HIRES  
ONLY FORMER SOLDIERS

All Attendants Possess War Ribbons and One Has Wound Stripes.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—The Prince of Wales has set an example by employing only ex-service men as male servants in his new bachelor home, York House.

One of the footmen wears a wound stripe and the military medal, and another has the Mons Star. All the men servants in the establishment have war ribbons.

It is likely that the custom of permitting men servants to wear war ribbons with their liveries will be followed in many private houses. London clubs are already taking up the plan.

GERMAN ADMIRAL WHO SANK SHIPS RELEASED. LONDON, Jan. 28.—Admiral Von Reuter, commander of the interned German war fleet at Scapa Flow, which was scuttled by her own crew, was released by the British authorities today and left for Germany.

WHITE HOUSE  
VIEW CHANGES

Wilson Turns to Underwood Plan to Obtain Ratification of Treaty.

FEAR PACT IN CAMPAIGN

Senate Leaders Also Afraid of "Irreconcilables" in Debate on Floor.

President Wilson now is favoring the appointment of a conciliation committee to adjust treaty differences in the Senate, it was announced at the White House today.

The President will give his support to the proposition put forth by Senator Underwood some weeks ago for the Senate to appoint a committee of ten and charge that committee with reaching a compromise on the treaty.

If the informal bi-partisan conference tomorrow does not reach a compromise it is expected that the President will ask Administration Senators to move for the appointment of a formal conciliation committee.

Fear Treaty in Campaign. Two primary reasons for an early agreement on the Lodge reservations were pressing hard today on both the Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate.

The first was their desire to prevent the Peace Treaty from being flung back into the midst of another long drawn-out debate on the Senate floor. The second is strong disinclination of both to have the treaty thrust into the campaign.

"Irreconcilables" Want Debate. Nothing better than the reopening of debate on the Senate floor would be asked by the little group of Republican and Democratic "irreconcilables." They would then stand a better chance of averting a successful conclusion of the negotiations for a compromise between Senators of both parties who are seeking ratification.

Two of them, Johnson of California and Poinsett of Washington, who are waging a campaign as avowed Presidential aspirants opposed to the Senate accepting the treaty under any condition, would welcome an opportunity to deliver more speeches in the Senate on the issue of "Americanism" they have both raised. In this they would be sure to be easily answered by Senator Borah of Idaho, another Republican, who is just as desirous as they are to have the treaty "killed."

Could Campaign in Senate. To be able to employ the Senate floor as a platform for the delivery of campaign speeches would naturally save both Johnson and Poinsett a lot of arduous campaigning elsewhere. They would also be assured of abundant publicity from an attentive press gallery.

It is an open secret that certain Republican leaders of the Senate are not taking any more kindly to the Johnson and Poinsett Presidential booms than are others of the "Old Guard" Republicans who dominate the party councils. They are figuring that if the treaty is ratified and gotten out of the way there will be less chance of the Johnsons and Poinsetts and Borahs making a campaign issue of it.

Incentive for Ratification. Democratic as well as Republican leaders realize that ratification will do more to prevent the treaty from being made one of the principal issues of the Presidential race than any other move they can make. They anticipate that the Johnsons and Poinsetts and Borahs will strive to keep the treaty alive as an issue, even though it is ratified, but they are of the opinion that once the treaty is ratified the attention of the American people will turn to more burning issues like the "fourteen days of living and taxation." This inspires them to renewed efforts to reach an agreement on the Lodge reservations.

The threat of Senator Hitchcock, the administration leader, to carry the treaty to the floor of the Senate unless the negotiations for a compromise were continued by the bi-partisan conference of which he and Senator Lodge, the Republican leader, are members, was regarded as a "bluff" by some Republican Senators. They do not believe Hitchcock wants the treaty dragged into the Senate Chamber again any more than they do until an agreement has been reached on the Lodge reservations which will insure speedy ratification and choke off interminable debate.

But whether a "bluff" or not, Hitchcock's move had the effect of continuing the negotiations until Thursday, at least, when the bi-partisan day, at least, when the bi-partisan

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